

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Captain Fred Fakkema
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: October 14, 2004

Contact: Detective Sergeant John Didion

Phone: (360) 753-0315, Ext. 105 OR (360) 239-0289 – cell

WSP Detectives Arrest 13-Year-Old for Possession/Distribution of Child Pornography

On October 13, detectives from the Washington State Patrol Missing and Exploited Children Task Force served a search warrant in Lacey, Washington. The warrant service ended a three-month investigation with the arrest of a 13-year-old male suspect on charges of possession and distribution of child pornography.

The case began when the internet service provider Yahoo!, reported finding over 180 images of suspected child pornography posted through their service. The Internet service providers are required by law to report any suspected child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in Alexandria, Virginia. More information about the national center can be found at www.missingkids.com. This report was then routed to detectives for investigation.

Of the images submitted by Yahoo!, 11 were confirmed as child victims by NCMEC. This confirmation means that authorities have identified the children in these images and have documentation as to the specific cases where these children were sexually exploited and or assaulted. Many of the other images are obviously of minors as well, but have not been identified by authorities. The suspect in this case also produced sexually explicit images of him and posted them on the internet. Much of the internet activity traced to the postings occurred between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Three computers, numerous compact disks, and other external media were seized as evidence during the search warrant. The age of the offender in this case is very unusual. Statistically, most suspects arrested for possession of child pornography are Caucasian males over age 25. Less than three percent of suspects arrested for child pornography are under age 17.

###